

The School Board Corner

By Patricia Healy, Rockhill District
February 2006

As we enter February, we begin the second semester of the school year. Please join in welcoming our new school board members, John LeDoux from the Aquia District, Nanette Kidby from the Garrisonville District, and Doreen Phillips from the Hartwood District, who began their term in January.

The School Board has been working diligently on the redistricting proposals for middle and elementary schools for school years 2006, 2007, and 2008. We thank all the parents, staff, students and community members who attended the public hearings and/or submitted comments to the School Board for the redistricting proposals. Special thanks go to those parents, staff and students who served on the redistricting committees last year.

February begins the earnest time for our working on budget presentations and justifications, which will be presented to the Board of Supervisors by April 1st. We actually started the budget cycle last August, with input from each of our schools and offices. Stafford County Public Schools operated in the 2005-2006 school year with a budget of \$245,219,806, which includes debt repayment for the construction of our facilities. With the opening of a new middle school in the southern part of the County and an elementary school in the Austin Ridge subdivision in September 2006, we will need to include the additional staff and operating expenses in the requested budget for next year. Stafford County Public Schools are a source of pride to the community and we will be working closely with our counterparts on the Board of Supervisors to insure adequate funding to maintain the high quality of education afforded our students.

The School Board is working on a six-year Capital Improvement Plan for maintenance and update of our existing buildings as well as for new construction. In addition to the schools opening in Fall 2006, a high school in the southern part of the County is planned for opening in 2009, in addition to the new middle school in the north to open in 2008, an elementary school to open in the Route 17 corridor in 2008, the additions to AG Wright and Stafford Middle Schools to open in 2007, and renovations to some of our older schools.

We will be celebrating the opening of Mountain View High School and Conway Elementary School in dedication ceremonies later this year. For those who have not had the opportunity to visit Mountain View High School or Conway Elementary, I encourage you to do so. The staff is proud of their new schools, which are truly exceptional facilities. Again, we thank the community for your support of our schools.

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